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Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

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New Bernal Journal

515 CORTLAND AVE - SAN FRANCISCO - CALIFORNIA - 94110
SERVING THE BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAN FRANCISCO SINCE 1964

Planning the Future of Mission St.

by Joseph Smooke and Amy Beinart

The BHNC Housing Program ended 2002 with an impressive accomplishment. During November and December, seven formerly homeless families and social services staff of Catholic Charities moved into beautiful new apartments and office space in our just- completed development on Eddy St. BHNC staff began developing financing and programming for the project in late 1996, so we are delighted to have turned these early dreams into reality and to see this building come to life.

Toward the end of 2002, Housing staff began discussions with city agencies, neighborhood groups, merchants and others who live, shop, and work on and near Mission St between Cesar Chavez and Randall about a new and exciting program of the BHNC. Our goal is to involve as broad a constituency as possible to establish a vision for future development on this diverse stretch of Mission St.

Many of you might remember the meetings conducted by BART about a possible station at 30th and Mission. There is still a possibility that this station might move forward. Whether it does or not, however, the conversations around the possibility of a BART station raised some larger questions:

1. If there is a BART station, how will its construction affect businesses?
2. If there is a BART station, what will the affect be on new development in the area, and on property values?
3. If there is or is not a BART station, how can MUNI's transit hub at 30th St be improved?
4. If there is no BART station, how can MUNI increase the effectiveness of its connections to BART at 24th St and Glen Park?

All of these questions are critical and raise broader issues about land use, future development, transportation, etc. And these issues when considered to their full extent really affect an area larger than just the intersection of 30th and Mission.

Seeing this, BHNC wrote a grant proposal to the Surdna Foundation, a national foundation with the resources to support a broad-based planning effort. The Surdna Foundation awarded BHNC a two-year grant to lead a community-based planning effort to develop strategies and guidelines for future revitalization and development along this important stretch of Mission St.

What does all this mean? What role can you play? Come to the first Planning Workshop on February 12, 6:30 pm at the Career Link Job Annex at 3119 Mission St. to find out ! There will be engaging discussion, a presentation by the Planning Department, and translation services and child care will be available. Please also check out information regarding Mission Street Community Planning on our web site, **www.bhnc.org/housing/mccp.htm** . If you have questions at all, contact Ron Morgan at **206-2140, ext. 155** or Joseph Smooke at **206-2140, ext. 157**. We look forward to seeing you there!■

Get involved in the future of Mission St.!

Participa en el Futuro de la Calle Mission!

Mission St. Community-Based Planning Meeting

February 12, 2003
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Career Link
3119 Mission Street

sponsored by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

Translation and Childcare available

Translacion y Cuidado de ninos son disponibles

Peace Movement Gains Momentum

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally
by Dale Becknell

This movement is different - a bright ray of hope amidst an otherwise bleak national political landscape. These peace marches look a lot like America. Every generation, every color, environmentalists, union members, even a few Republicans for peace marching along side socialists and anarchists.

The marches were also huge! Except for the Million Man March, rallies of this scale haven't been seen since the Vietnam War was nearing an end. The largest march of that era also began to look more like America, because wars eventually affect virtually every family. In that march, when I saw a large contingent of "Businessmen Against the War" marching in suits, I knew, and the cheering crowd knew, that the war was going to end soon. The war had become a pivotal factor in presidential and congressional campaigns, as well as Wall Street worries about deficits, interest rates, inflation, and social unrest.

Although there were upheavals leading into the Revolutionary and Civil wars, another notable facet of the current outpouring is that it is happening before a war starts. Unlike earlier periods, so far recent rallies have been predominantly peaceful, in keeping with the goal.

As a father of draft age boys, I am truly grateful to all who have cared enough to show up and raise their voices for peace.

What does all this have to do with a newsletter addressing neighborhood issues? Everything. Every one of your dollars that goes toward a bomb that may kill an innocent child will be one less dollar that could go toward your child or grandchild's education, or your parents health care or transit fare, or affordable housing for a teacher trying to live here. Last year Bernal Heights citizens had to fight hard to avoid severe budget cuts to programs at the neighborhood center, and we are still vulnerable.

One of the center's efforts is to mentor young people to avoid violence, and to build positive futures. How can we teach nonviolence while allowing our government to inflict mass death and destruction, while risking the lives of our most precious resource, our youth. My favorite sign at the march was held by a little girl, who reminded us: "No war. Use your words." If you believe that the demonic image painted by citizen Bush of Saddam Hussein is closer to the truth than the belief by his followers that he is a heroic defender, then you might think he is unlikely to be swayed by words. In honor of Martin Luther King's recent birthday observances, we should consider something taught by one of his two guiding lights, Jesus Christ and Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi, whose campaign wrested independence from what was up until then, the world's mightiest empire, the British Empire, was asked if his nonviolent approach would have worked against Hitler. He replied (paraphrasing), "Not without great pain, and great loss. But has war not brought great pain, great loss?"■

Photos by Joseph Smooke

The New Bernal Journal

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The New Bernal Journal is a neighborhood newspaper sponsored by the **Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.**
It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with *their community's news, ideas,* issues and events which support the center mission:

To preserve and enhance the ethnic, cultural and economic diversity and well-being of the Bernal Heights community. We work to build a strong community for all, with a focus on the needs of low and moderate-income people. We do this by providing services to support and increase opportunities for seniors, youth and others most at-risk; by preserving and expanding access to affordable housing; and by building the neighborhood's power and capacity to achieve these goals. We commit to being a provider of essential services, a builder of community, and a force for organizing neighborhood change.

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Articles express the views of the contributors and are not necessarily those of *The New Bernal Journal* or the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

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nbj@bhnc.org

A Message from the Executive Director of the BHNC

Dear Members and Neighbors:

Gung Hay Fat Choy!

We here at the BHNC are excited to celebrate 25 years of providing service to the community. We have worked hard to build a healthy community, safety net and pride for all residents of Bernal. Since the creation of the Elsie Street plan to the approval of our current strategic plan, we have always prioritized the preservation of community and serving those most in need.

With so much turmoil in the global community, we feel that it is more important than ever to maintain and strengthen our programs and services here in our neighborhood. I am well aware that we have a difficult road ahead as we continue to face drastic state and local budget cuts from our funding sources. Having said that, we are still moving forward with an exciting array of activities.

I wanted to start off by thanking all of our long-term supporters, including governmental, private philanthopic, and community individuals who have continuously supported the mission of the BHNC. Our anniversary theme is "Member Led, Community Supported for 25 years". The theme was chosen because it reflected the case over the past 25 years. In this issue is a listing of all of our 2002 members. We thank you and could not have done as good of a job without your support. We also highlighted some of our year end holiday activities, our housing rehab program's progress and the opening this past November of seven units of special needs family housing in the Fillmore.

We have jump started this year, with an attempt to meet with all of our major donors to thank them for their past support, understand how they view the work of the BHNC, listen to suggestions as to areas for improvement, and requesting their continued support. We also have hired an event planning consultant to organize our two day 25th Anniversary celebration on Thursday, October 16 and Sunday, October 19. Please mark your calendars. Ximena Delgado, Vice President of our Board of Directors, and David Ayoob, proprietor of Four Star Video have volunteered to co-chair the event. If you would like to work on the planning committee please let me know. The April through October issues of the New Bernal Journal will cover the story of BHNC's past 25 years. If you have pictures and/or stories related to the development of the BHNC and would like to share those with the community, please get in contact with us.

As always, we will continue to provide quality services to our youth, seniors, and residents of our developments and indirectly to the entire community. I must inform you that initial state and city budget projections for the 2003/2004 fiscal year are getting worse each week. We are trying to calculate the extent of the cuts and the impacts of these cuts on our programs and community. We will need your support to fight back many of the proposed cuts.

Congratulations to the S.F. Day Labor Program on obtaining their approval to locate and house the program on Chavez Street. The Planning Commission added ten conditions to their approval so hopefully those opposing the program will feel more comfortable with the program.

We also have started a South of Chavez Mission St. Planning effort. We hope to conduct an inclusive process that reflects those folks who live and use Mission Street to help us determine the future development of Mission St. We also commit to staying involved on the future development of Bayshore Blvd as the planning department attempts to rezone the area for Big Box type retail.

In the Excelsior district, we will continue to work with the Excelsior Action Group to revitalize Mission Street, with the help of our collaborative partners enhance our Greater Mission Consortium (GMC) Youth Center, and break ground on our 37 units of senior housing at Geneva & Mission in the Fall.

Our membership drive commences in February; our goal for 2003 is 1,000 members. I hope you renew or join the BHNC.

Happy 25th Anniversary. Member Led, Community Supported for 25 Years.

Sincerely,
Mauricio E. Vela
Executive Director

Big Box/Industrial Zoning a Lose/Lose Proposition

By Ron Morgan

As of press time the Home Depot Draft Environmental Impact Review has still not been published, a full public discussion of the negative impacts of the project has yet to occur, and a permit for Home Depot's proposed development has not yet been approved. Even so, some elected and appointed City officials have spoken of the project as if it is a done deal. During the recent public debate on Centro Legal's efforts to secure a site for their Day Labor program on Cesar Chavez St. (see article on Page 1), several Planning Commissioners, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, and representatives of Mayor Willie Brown asserted that the day laborers would be better served by services located "on the Home Depot site."

Home Depot has not submitted any plans for a for day labor hiring or pick-up facility, so these assertions are doubly puzzling. Has Home Depot formally offered to host a day labor program on its proposed site and to whom was the offer made? There is no mention of a day labor facility on the proposed site in the Memo of Agreement between Home Depot and the Bayview/Hunters Point Planning Area Committee, published late last November. Does the Bayview PAC, which has publicly and forcefully supported the Home Depot development because they say it will provide Bayview residents with jobs, support a hiring facility for day laborers, nearly all of whom reside in the Mission?

Bigger than Home Depot

Two of three alternative zoning proposals recently presented to the Planning Commission by the San Francisco Planning Department head Gerald Green would turn Bayshore Boulevard into seamless row of Big Box retail developments. According to documents found on the Planning Department web site, a newly created zoning category, Industrial/Big Box, stretching from Cesar Chavez to a point a block south of Alemany, would provide retailers like Walmart and Target the real estate they require to "establish themselves in the city." Although hundreds of Bernal homes are within spitting distance of the proposed Big Box Alley, and thousands of Bernal residents outside of this radius will be impacted, the Planning Department did no outreach in Bernal Heights concerning the community workshops creating the alternatives.

The Big Box/Industrial zoning proposal is causing grumbling on both sides of Bayshore, since it would allow developers to skate around approval review processes. Not only would Bernal lose the ability to challenge developers on the impacts of their projects, the Bayview would lose their leverage to negotiate favorable hiring practices. A wide variety of cheap goods from a Bayshore Big Box row would severely hamper economic development along the 3rd Street Transit corridor as well as the Mission Street corridor. ■

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BHNC EVENTS & SERVICES BRING YEAR-END JOY TO THE COMMUNITY

TOY GIVEAWAY & HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

1.Bernal youngsters take time out to pass through the BHNC's annual Holiday party and toy giveaway held at the Neighborhood Center sponsored by the HAAS Sr. fund and Cal. Dept. of Justice.

2.Dora from Dorita's on Cortland takes time out from the restaurant to celebrate the holidays at the BHNC with family members.

3. After waiting for her turn, a Bernal child floats towards Santa with the glow of happiness spread across her face.

4.The BHNC's Bernal Gateway Apartments' children participated in a toy giveaway and Holiday celebration at the development. Children and parents also celebrated two new murals located inside the community room and on the outside of the youth space. The murals were produced in conjunction with the Precita Eyes Mural Center.

5.This Excelsior district family spends time with Santa at our Greater Mission Consortium (GMC) site in the Excelsior.

6.Even tough guys have time to pose with Mauricio Santa at our Greater Mission Consortium (GMC) site in the Excelsior district. The HAAS Sr. fund and Cal. Dept. of Justice also sponsored the event.

HOUSING REHAB PROGRAM

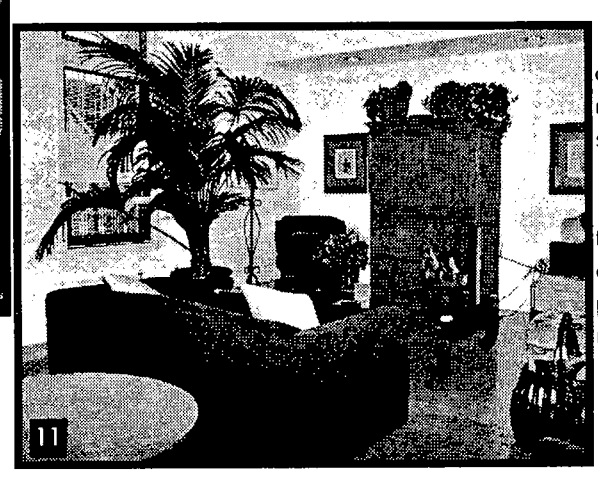
7.Lucrecia Bermudez poses in front of her Ellsworth St. home that had the interior rehabbed including the roof, plumbing, and deck through the BHNC's housing rehab program. She was a December recipient of a City lead hazard reduction grant.

8.BHNC's staff member Sumi Imamoto and Gloria Hutter tour Ms. Hutter's Trumbull St home, who recently had the kitchen, bathroom, stairs, and roof, repaired through the BHNC's housing rehab program.

9.The Camilli Family poses in front of their Ellert St home undergoing renovation including the installation of new windows and heating system through the BHNC's housing rehab program. The Camilli family was also selected as a grant recipient of the City's lead hazard reduction program.

10.Harold Franklin isn't celebrating winning the lottery, but is celebrating the completion of the rehab of his Nevada St. home including a new roof, plumbing, and electrical work through the BHNC's housing rehab program.

EDDY STREET DEVELOPMENT



11.Our new Eddy St. development which opened this past November has a community living room utilized for community services and recreational activities.

12.Our new Eddy St. development opened this past November, provides seven units of special needs family housing with supportive services program offices and community space.

all photos by Joseph Smooke

Bernal Happenings

This Month the Cortland Merchants Association ....

held elections and elected new officers. Our congratulations to David Ayoob (Four Star Video) and Mike Grafton (Baltic to Boardwalk), Co-Presidents; Nancy White (Wild Side West), Vice-President; Eileen Claytor (The Cutting Edge), Treasurer; and Changying Zheng and Michael Juarez (Maggie Mudd's), Co-Secretaries.

Our January meeting was held on the 14th, and goals for 2003 were approved. We have selected a graphic design for our logo to be used on our website (BernalHeightsOnline.com), letterhead, and as a window decal identifying our members. We established a committee to plan an annual fund-raising community dinner in the Spring. Neighborhood beautification emerged as a high areas of concentration for the new year, and we are pleased with the results and initial feedback from our tree well project.

As many of you have no doubt noticed, the CMA donated the materials and organized a member and volunteer work party that bricked 45 tree wells from Bocana to Folsom along Cortland Avenue over three Saturdays in December and early January (see photo above). Most of the community agree that the new treatment is safer (reducing the trip hazard), attractive, low-maintenance, and provides visual continuity in the commercial corridor. During the next year we hope to coordinate the planting of additional trees (and bricking their tree wells) as well as a corridor-wide tree pruning, both in preparation for an expanded application of white outdoor lights in the trees. As well as the welcome decorative effect, our belief is that the additional light will promote after hours safety and activities. Within the next few months it is our intention to establish a regular sidewalk cleaning program, and explore the placement of additional trash cans, and neighborhood banners. We actively seek your input and suggestions regarding these programs. You can contact us at our website (BernalHeightsOnline.com), or by a note to Cortland Merchants Association, Suite 20, 322 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA. 94110.

Although we will be soliciting the help of our Board of Supervisors representative, Tom Ammiano, in applying for city funds for these projects when he attends our March 11th meeting, we ask for your support. The bricks and sand, white lights, sidewalk cleaning service, trash cans and banners can only be completed with your help. Donations can be made directly by check payable to the Cortland Merchants Association. If you would like to volunteer labor or expertise to complete these goals, please let us know how to contact you. Thanks in advance.

The Cortland Merchants Association wishes to extend condolences to the family, friends, and patrons of the Hungarian Sausage Factory & Bistro, on the passing of Imre Mandocki, neighborhood resident and business owner and Past President of the Cortland Merchants Association.

The CMA pitches in to help beautify Cortland.
Left to right: Marc Katz, Ira Johnson, Marci Yellin, Bob Moglia, Dick Sheridan, Mike Grafton (hat), Terinell Pelley, Susan Hershey, Tom Flanning David Ayoob
Not pictured: Bruce Hillman, Carol Bee, Gordon Thrupp, Ron Morgan, Mauricio Vela, Mike Boss, Kingmond Young, Bill Wyland, Leo Laxamana

Recent business news.... The Bernal Yoga introductory courses are very popular.....the remodeling of The Good Life Grocery will be "substantially complete" by late February.... Maggie Mudd's is now open, with ice cream confections and computers.... the remodeling of Charlie's is nearing completion and will reopen soon....Valentina's is now open... and two new restaurants are coming soon...goodbye Bernal Books. ■

Holly Park Renovation Update

by Eugenie Marek

Friends of Holly Park continues to be in touch with Judy Mosqueda, acting Project Manager for the Capital Renovation of Holly Park. Please direct your questions or comments to her: **558-4039**.
Final details for the park are being worked out by the Park & Rec landscape architects. To attract more bids, our project will be packaged with Hoff Street Park, advertising to start about mid-February. The total time allowed for advertisement, bidding and awarding the contract is 4 months. This means work on the renovation would begin in mid to late June.
We continue to inquire about the reforestation which would be coupled to the renovation.

We are pleased to confirm that the renovation will include an artwork designed uniquely for Holly Park, funded by a Bond Art Enrichment Program, coordinated jointly by SF Recreation & Park and The SF Arts Commission. Nina Dunbar, coordinator of SF Arts Commission"s Public Arts Project, outlined the process to be followed to select an artistic creation. Several community members along with John Thomas, landscape architect for Holly Park, will review and recommend artists from a pool of pre-qualified artists. Three artists will be asked to present a proposal for Holly Park. These proposals will be displayed publically, with community input encouraged. The small panel will then make a selection. The final design will be approved by the SF Arts Commission. ■

South Bernal Living Library and Think Park

Monthly meetings are continuing on this exciting South Bernal project to create a rich mix of gardens, native plantings, pathways and public focus areas that will highlight our ecological, historical and human resources. These will be pleasing to our senses as well as enriching our appreciation of what makes our area unique. Gardens have already been started in the Junipero Serra Child Development Center. Possible projects are being discussed for Holly Park, J. Serra Elementary School and several pocket green areas. Children are actively participating in the planning and activities and more adults and children are invited to participate.

We are developing a Community Steering Committee and would like your participation. It is a wonderful and fun opportunity to learn more about your neighborhood - past and present - and plan for the future. Please join us.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 18th 4-5:45 pm at the Junipero Serra CDC at 155 Appleton Street. Call for future meeting dates.

This project is conceived and coordinated by Bernal resident, environmental architect, and artist Bonnie Ora Sherk, founder of Life Frames, Inc., a non-profit organization sponsoring A Living Library here and in other communities. She was the original, Founding Executive Director and President of The Farm, formerly at Cesar Chavez & Potrero, that inspired and helped create Potrero del Sol Park. For more information, call **206-9710** or **920-5138** or email **bonnieora@alivinglibrary.org.** ■

Reservoir Reforestation

The first phase in the reforestation of the College Hill Reservoir was begun with the removal of the large Monterey cypresses along Elsie Street, and some thinning out of the pines along Appleton. It looks very bare without them. The PUC plans to replant a large number of trees and shrubs within 6 months.■

Does your home have a leak in a roof? A Rotted floor? Do you need plumbing or electrical work? Are you financially unable to keep your home up to code and safety?
The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center may be able to help you to get a very unique 'Home Rehabilitation Loan' sponsored by the City.
No monthly payments! There are loans up to $50,000 per unit with uniquely minimal interest rate from 0-3% and you don't have to pay anything for at least 10 years or as long as you live in your home.
The loan is directed to low and moderate income homeowners who have emergency home repair needs and issues that may not be up to health and safety requirements.
Please call the BHNC Rehabilitation staff to see if you qualify for these loans and for more details 206-2140 ext.176

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Bernal Heights Yoga: Relax and Get Bent

by Lisa Dyas

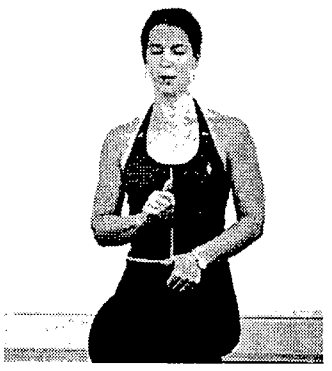

photo: Lisa Dyas

Inspiration can indeed be found at a garage sale. While yoga and cast-offs might seem an unlikely combination, it proved to be fertile ground for Savonn Wyland, director of the Bernal Yoga studio.

"I bought a [yoga] book at a garage sale for a quarter," Savonn said laughing. "I came home and tried to figure it out, but it started out with things like headstands which are really difficult."

At the time Savonn and her husband Brian lived in Washington D.C. and it was there that she took her first yoga classes. She fell in love with the discipline and found it a perfect compliment to a stressful job. When her brother Bill Wyland moved to the area in 1996 Savonn introduced him to yoga as well.

A year later Savonn and Brian moved to Mountain View. The move allowed her to work from home and dedicate more time to her personal yoga practice. She also studied under and eventually took over the classes of Mary Lynn Fitton in Palo Alto.

The couple moved to Bernal Heights about two years ago. Savonn continued to work full time, which now included a daily commute to Emeryville, and practice yoga, but she dreamed of opening her own studio. When the space across the street from the Good Life Grocery became available last year she knew it was time to act.

"When the karate school had a lease sign it seemed like the right thing," she said.

By then Bill had also returned to the neighborhood from Washington, D.C. and the brother and sister team tackled the transformation from karate studio to yoga studio. Savonn and Bill did most of the work themselves which included laying a new floor in the studio and fresh paint throughout.

"The vibe's a little different now," Bill said giving the reception area a once over.

Bernal Yoga has now been open for two months under Bill and Savonn's direction. Bill manages the day-to-day operations of the studio and continues to study yoga. Savonn teaches several classes herself and holds certificates in yoga from the White Lotus Foundation in Santa Barbara and the Seattle Holistic Center.

Since its opening the studio has received a warm welcome. According to Savonn, nearly 600 students have taken classes, many of them practicing two to three times a week.

"Our vision was definitely to have a place where people who were new to yoga would feel really welcome and to offer a place where seasoned practitioners would find new inspiration for their practice." Savonn said.

Savonn's effort to create a positive learning environment has not been lost on her students. Megan Bradley has been studying yoga for three years and has taken classes at studios throughout the city. According to Bradley, Bernal Yoga is one of the best studios around.

"I really like it," Bradley said. "The teaching is good and the classes are not competitive or trendy."

In addition to providing residents of Bernal Heights with a place to renew themselves, the studio also brings a new face to the Cortland Avenue commercial strip. Savonn and Bill both work full time at the studio now and are pleased by the continuing evolution of the street.

"I'm encouraged to see that there are still changes happening," Savonn said. "I like the fact that things are locally owned."

Both Savonn and Bill feel a strong commitment to the neighborhood and want their studio to be a part of the community. They plan to host non-yoga events at least once a month as well as art exhibits.

Despite its karmic charm, yoga is a business and one that Savonn and Bill hope will be successful. For Savonn, this means working to achieve a balance between her yoga practice and her business practices.

"Taking a yoga practice off the mat, out of the studio, into whatever kind of work environment you have...is going to bring about more peace," Savonn said. "There are challenges, but there are challenges in everything." ■

Peter Rothblatt
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A Message from Board President Tom Ammiano

First, congratulations to the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center for twenty five years of successful operation! As always, its been a busy time here on the hill and at City Hall. My office has been working on a variety of issues of concern to the neighborhood, some of which I'd like to share.

High crime along Anderson Street spurred residents to meet regarding safety improvements. Perpetrators in the area would often escape through a trail onto Housing Authority property. My office coordinated the construction of a fence below the end of Anderson Street. Residents have been vigilant and we asked for increased car and foot patrols by SFPD.

In 2001, a group of Bernal residents and my office coordinated the "June 22nd Team" to implement an action plan to avoid devastating fires. A new fire hydrant was installed on the hill and the Fire Department indentified potential hot spots. The Department of Public Works sent crews to trim hot spots and educated neighbors on keeping their grass trimmed back. Thanks to this cooperative effort, no fires occurred. I hope that we can duplicate the program in 2003.

Many of you know about the Bernal Heights Recreation Center play equipment behind the Library. Unfortunately, someone removed the bolts from the play structure (several times) and parents were naturally upset and worried. My office coordinated with Elizabeth Goldstein, the Director of the Department of Park and Recreation, to restore the equipment and make it safe. Please keep a look out for anything that looks suspicious, and don't hesitate to call Captain Kevin Dillon at Ingleside Police Station (415) 404-4000.

The Immaculate Conception parish, located at Precita and Folsom, enlisted assistance in painting a white zone in front of the church. Improved parking contributed to increased attendance on Sundays and the family and community programs offered at the church are also well attended. Congratulations to everyone who has helped improve things there.

The Planning Department granted permission for the Day Labor program to establish a site on Cesar Chavez Street. While there is still contention around the issue, we are hoping when the site is up and running much of the dissention can be resolved.

We were contacted by several residents concerning building permits for Charlie's Bar and a potential 7-day a week DJ entertainment license until 2:00 AM. We assisted by obtaining information from the Planning Department and requested that the Department review the permit history to ensure that permits were issued according to established rules.

I have met with the staff of Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and representatives of Safeway and Blockbuster to investigate possible affordable housing ideas. The current budget situation is very bad, but we'll bring everyone to the table to consider solutions soon.

The Home Depot issue will be returning to the forefront over the next few months. Home Depot recently released its Community Commitment Agreement with the Bayview-Hunters Point PAC, including an outline of an agreement for green-building features and a Neighborhood Jobs Training Program that will prioritize hiring from the Bayview and within the City. The draft environmental impact report is likely to be released around the beginning of March, which will reveal project impacts on the Bernal community. There will be a period for both written comment and public testimony (yet to be scheduled) at the Planning Commission.

We would be glad to help with any other issues you are facing, including: identifying when 3-can recycling will be implemented on your street; determining eligibility for a permit parking zone and/or for having your curb painted red; towing an abandoned or junked car; and implementing mechanical street sweeping.

I will follow up in the near future with an article regarding Citywide policy initiatives I have recently undertaken or plan for the near future.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano, District 9 ■

Tom Ammiano for Mayor Campaign Kick-Off Party!

Supervisor Tom Ammiano invites you to join him at his campaign kick-off party on Wednesday, February 19, from 5:30 - 8:00 pm at the San Francisco Plumber's Hall, 1621 Market Street at Franklin. Come for delicious food, great music, and a good time! For more information and for volunteer opportunities, call 552-0345.

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What's New at the Bernal Elementary Schools?

Leonard R. Flynn Elementary School Pays Tribute to Dolores Huerta

Under the direction of artist Josef Norris, fifth grade students from Leonard R. Flynn Elementary School are creating a spectacular outdoor painted and mosaic mural that pays tribute to Dolores Huerta, co-founder of United Farm Workers. As part of a 14 week service learning project, the bilingual (English/Spanish) students have studied the history of the United Farm Workers, boycotts, non-violence and the life of unsung hero, Dolores Huerta.

The stunning outdoor mosaic mural will overlook Cesar Chavez Street and be seen by thousands of people every day. The creation of this public art project teaches young people to work together to learn about their history, heritage and to transform their communities. The community is invited to the unveiling ceremony on February 12, 2003 at 1:30 p.m.

The project is funded by the California Arts Council and coordinated by Linking San Francisco and the Every Child Can Learn Foundation. For more information, contact Leonard R. Flynn Elementary School, 3125 Cesar Chavez Street, at **(415) 695-5770.** ■

Paul Revere Happenings

We had our second annual spelling bee for the 4th and 5th graders on January 17th. Congratulations to all the spellers who came and took part!

Coming up on February 27th is our Black History Month Assembly at 12:45 and 6:30 pm. Parents and community are invited to come to one or both times to watch our presentation! Also please join us March 13th for Math Night, put on by the 3rd graders. That will also happen at 6:30 pm. In April, our 2nd graders will present a Music Assembly.

Of interest to parents: Mission Learning Center is putting on workshops every Wednesday morning from 8 to 9:30 am through 2/19 and we're working on getting other workshops thereafter. Please contact Novella Kleinpeter at **695-5974** for more info on the workshops. Also please join us Thursday mornings from 8-9 am in the Annex for coffee talks about a variety of topics. Coffee and donuts served!

Community and parent involvement in our school is an important part of education - please come to PTA and School Site Council (SSC) meetings and get involved! Both meetings will happen on February 13th and March 13th. The PTA meetings are 6-7 pm while SSC meetings are 4-6 pm.

We hope to see you at Paul Revere soon! ■

Junipero Serra News

Junipero Serra is the happy recipient of an $8000 Title 5 Grant from the state to enhance our library! We'll be obtaining more multi-cultural books with the money to help build up our library.

It's never too soon to start thinking about higher education and our parents are doing just that! We had a very successful workshop on college preparation and are planning to put on two more in February. The workshops stress the importance of reading and mastering the basics in elementary school so kids can be ready to succeed in high school. Parents learned about college entrance requirements, scholarships, the importance of helping their children with math and reading, and more. The February workshops will be presented in both Spanish and English. Please contact Laura Benton at **695-5685** for more information. Other workshops available for parents include ESL and Helping with Homework. Please contact Laura Benton for information about all of these. ■

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

Planning a meeting?

Throwing a party?

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Contact Neil A. Smith at: 206-2140 X 100

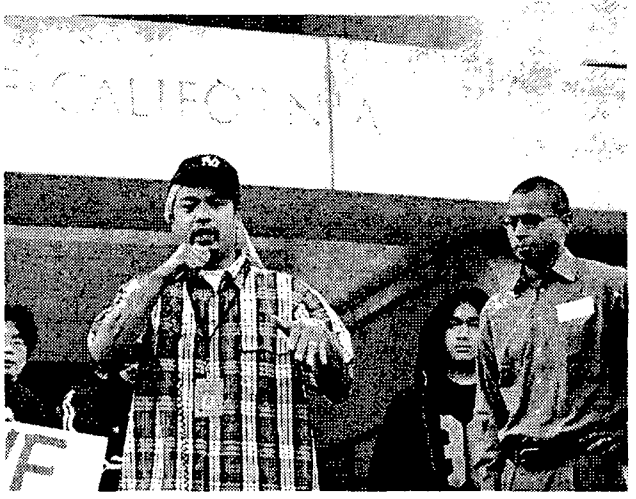
Building Bernal Schools Update

by Amy Risch

Building Bernal Schools is mobilizing to help stave off proposed budget cuts in school funding. The proposed budget cuts not only cut money badly needed by our schools for next year, they cut funds that were ALREADY BUDGETED FOR THIS YEAR! The California Legislature is considering a $2.5 billion cut to education in the current 2002-03 budget, a move that would leave our school districts with gaping holes in their budgets halfway through this school year. While the state's budget deficit presents the Legislature with very difficult fiscal decisions, it is critical that we remind them that education must remain the top funding priority. Please help us prevent our school funding from being cut for this year. If you're on the internet, please visit **www.edvoice.org/campaign/budget02** to send an e-fax to your legislators. Calls to legislators are also important. Contact State Senator Jackie Speier at her SF office: **415-557-7857**. Contact Assembly member Mark Leno at his Sacramento office: **(916) 319-2013**.

To get involved in the ongoing fight, contact either Ron Morgan at BHNC, **206-2140 x155**, e-mail rmorgan@bhnc.org or Virginia Ketch at Coleman Advocates for Children, **415-239-0161**, e-mail **vketch@colemanadvocates.org**

Building Bernal Schools meets once a month to organize activities promoting community involvement with our schools. Please join us Wednesday, February 5th or Wednesday, March 5th at BHNC at 7 pm. You can also find out more from Ron Morgan at BHNC.



Rudy Corpuz of United Playaz speaks out on the importance of educational funding at San Francisco Unified Rally on January 10th
Photo by Steve Shapiro

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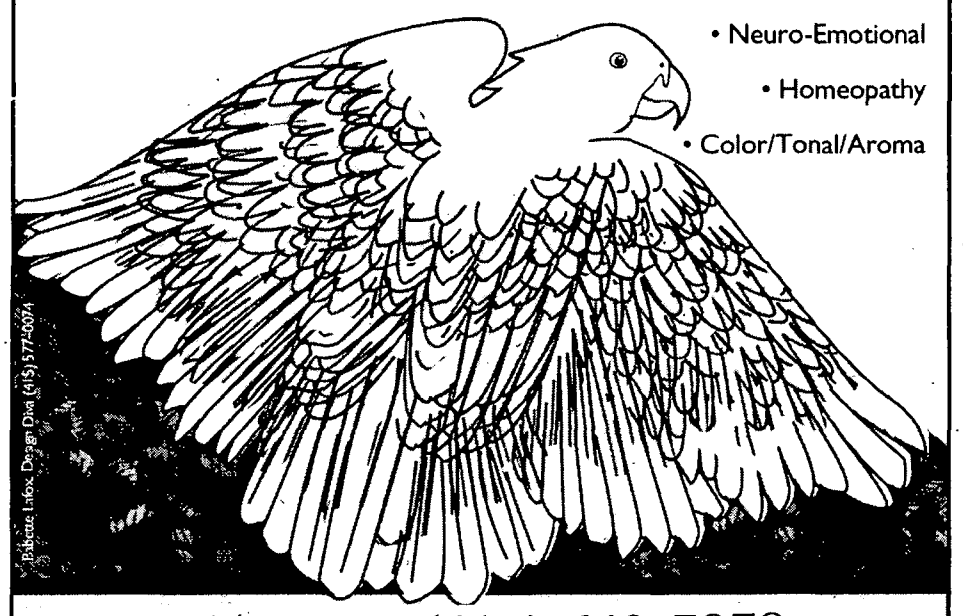

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Bernal Photographer Captured Dr. King's Essence

By Evelyn C. White

Martin Luther King, Jr. gave Phiz Mezey the nod. A San Francisco resident since the late 1940s, the determined freelance photographer had come to the Third Baptist Church to document the changes (read: gentrification) in the city's historically black Fillmore district. In town to urge local ministers to board the Freedom Train for racial justice, King was waiting for an appointment (circa 1961) when he and Mezey (born in Harlem of Hungarian Jewish descent) crossed paths.

"I looked over and discovered I was sitting opposite Dr. King," remembered Mezey, 77, and a Bernal Heights resident for ten years. "He was deep in thought. So, respectfully, I asked, 'May I?' and he nodded his head."

"I was disappointed when I developed the film because it was underexposed," she continued. "I filed the negative and didn't print the image for six years."

Today, Mezey's photo of King (and other works) have been purchased by art collectors and exhibited in prestigious galleries such as the Mills College Museum. Her career sidetracked by divorce, single motherhood, and pre-feminist bias against women artists, Mezey doesn't lament the obstacles that prevented her (unlike Steichen, Weston or Avedon) from becoming a household name in the world of photography. "The road hasn't been easy," she noted recently, without bitterness, over coffee at Progressive Grounds. "Whatever the job - waitress, secretary, blacklisted teacher - I never put my camera down. It's how I raise consciousness and create community."

Consciousness. It was apparently in short supply at San Francisco State when Mezey (a 1948 graduate of Reed College) lost her journalism teaching job after refusing to sign a 1950s-era "loyalty oath" (to the US

Photo 1963 Phiz Mezey

government!) then required of all state employees. "I was booted out and blacklisted for 15 years," she said. At about the same time, a tumultuous divorce effectively rendered her the sole supporter of two young daughters. Fearful that their husbands might be tempted by a self-assured divorcee, many of Mezey's women friends "iced me completely," as she recalled.

"It was before the feminist movement and there wasn't a lot of 'sisterhood' for divorced women," Mezey explained. "We were considered a threat." But Mezey pressed on. Taking odd jobs to pay the rent, she used her "outsider" status to perfect her photography skills, an art form she'd embraced since childhood.

Routinely 'buked and scorned for his vocal stance against bigotry (most notably in The Fire Next Time), black writer James Baldwin took an instant liking to Mezey when the two activists met in San Francisco in the mid-1960s. Convinced that she could take a better photo than those that often appeared on the author's book jackets ("The images didn't convey the beauty of his soul"), Mezey asked Baldwin if she might photograph him. He agreed and she went on to join the writer on a three-week speaking tour throughout California. A portrait from the series - of Baldwin dancing - has been hailed for its technical precision and jubilant warmth. As with the King image, Mezey captured the essence of the man.

Mezey was eventually re-hired at SF State and it was there, in the mid-1980s, that she made a lasting impact on former Bernal resident Joanne Bealy, then planning a career in social work. "Wanting variety, I took Phiz's class in instructional graphic design, which I loved," remembered Bealy. "She was down to earth and definitely doing her own thing, artistically. She encouraged students to chart their own path."

With Mezey as inspiration, Bealy switched majors and began a successful fifteen year career as a creative director in the computer industry. Recently retired, she now lives in her native Canada where she concentrates full-time on writing, especially poetry. "No question, Phiz changed my life," Bealy maintained.

Since her retirement from the university in 1990, Mezey has worked steadily on her many photography projects (she develops and prints her own images and has learned to use Photoshop) and indulges her passion for the nearly 1000 cactus plants (many of them rare varieties) she cultivates on her Bernal rooftop. "It's a lot of watering," she jokes as her beloved dog Carina, nudges her for dinner. "I'm busy all the time."

Indeed. Mezey has also completed a manuscript, The Pregnant Onion and Other Joyful Houseplants, and wryly notes that she might, after nearly eighty years of fiery independence, give a nod to a long overdue photography show. ■

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Special thanks to the 9 Gifts on the Hill volunteers and the people who donated such a large variety of items to our store throughout the year. We would also like to recognize the outstanding vision and leadership of our former Volunteer Coordinator, Debe Rodriguez-Holm. Because of her efforts and those of the volunteers, the majority of whom are seniors, the year 2002 was the most successful in the history of our store. Over $15,000 was raised directly for our Senior Services programs!

Due to the small size of our store and storage capacity, we will be able to accept donations on Mondays and Saturdays only. Other arrangements can be made by phone.

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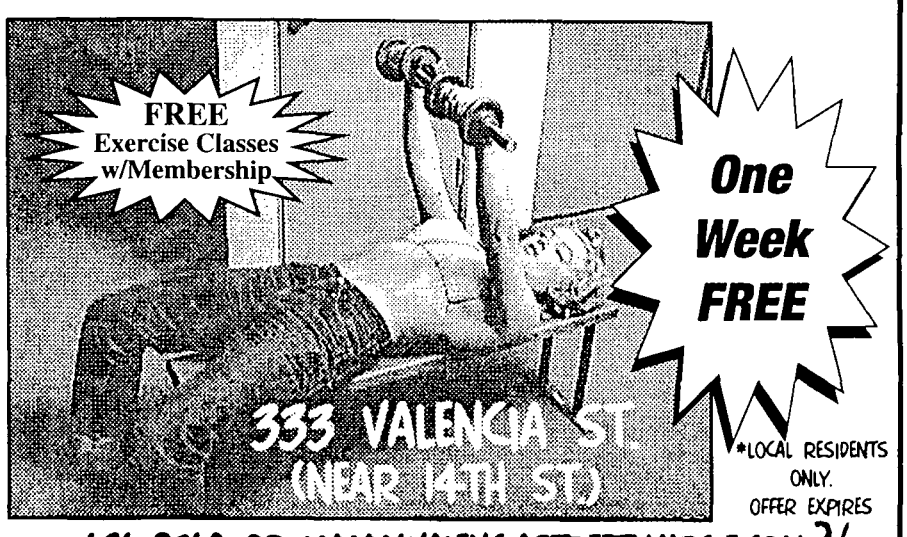

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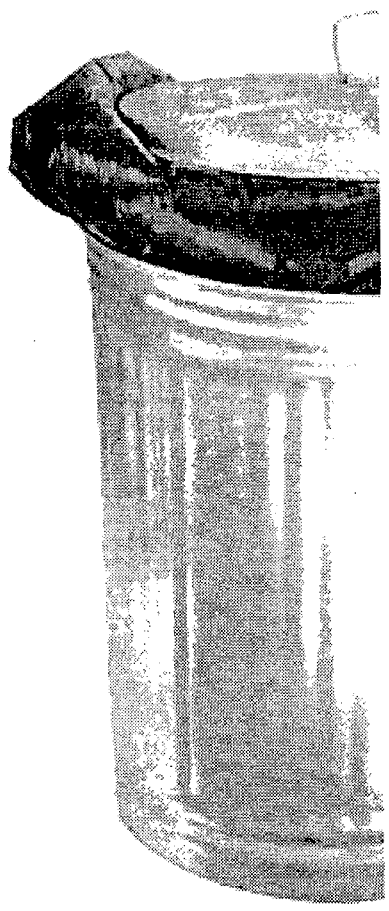

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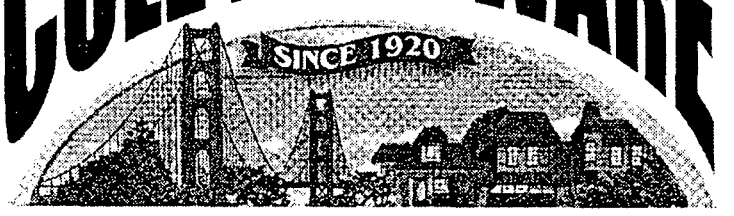

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Imre Laszlo Mandoki

Born: July 18, 1947
Died: January 18, 2003

Imre Mandoki, owner of the Hungarian Sausage Factory and Cortland Avenue resident, passed away in the early morning hours of January 18th, after a prolonged struggle with throat cancer. Imre opened the doors to the Hungarian Sausage Factory on 419 Cortland, which became Bernal's first destination dining spot, with stellar reviews in the local and national press. The Sausage Factory reflected Imre's passion for his culture, providing us with Hungarian food, music, and dancing. So many travelers from Eastern Europe made the pilgrimage to Imre's for a taste of "home-cooking" that the Sausage Factory often felt like Bernal's unofficial Hungarian consulate. Imre's dedication to Bernal Heights led him to become president of the Cortland Merchants Association, where his candor will be long remembered.
Imre loved to dance, to play music, to cook, to talk, to laugh, (and sometimes to quarrel); he embraced the world with open arms. His restaurant embraced Cortland Avenue with the same openness, with sidewalk dining and music parties. When people speak about Bernal as a village in the City, I recall the lazy afternoons over espresso in front of the Hungarian Sausage Factory with Imre and Timmy Prael. May this spirit, Imre's spirit, long survive on Cortland.
Imre is survived by his wife, Judit; his children Sandor, Zoltan, Serena and Eboya; and his brother, Josef.
--Ron Morgan

Frances Welsh Bagot

Frances Welsh Bagot passed away at age 84 on December 5, 2002.

Fran was a woman of intelligence, strength, drive, intensity and charm. While her professional career included twenty years of public service to the state of New Jersey, her priorities were clear: she was first a devoted wife, mother, daughter, and friend. Her friends felt they could share their problems with her, confident that she would respect confidences, help if she could and respond in a caring way. Her strength and determination carried her through her husband's illness and passing, through her own recovery from a disabling stroke, and helped her to live independently despite the additional challenges of heart disease and osteoarthritis. Her energy and social flair carry on in her children through their dedication to social change and community support.
She leaves behind her children Buck Bagot and Barbara Bagot-Lopez and their spouses Pattie Tamura and Eugenio Lopez of San Francisco; and her granddaughter Adela Bagot-Lopez.

Irene Helen Heinecke (Renee)

Born February 26, 1949
Passed Away December 17, 2002

Renee was born Irene Helen Ramirez, and raised in San Francisco on Bernal Heights at 426 Gates St. She was one of seven sisters and five brothers. Renee had three beautiful children; Gina Heinecke, Robert Nickolas Heinecke, and James Grow. Renee is survived by her children, four grandchildren and her mother.
Renee was a very positive individual and was loved by everyone. She "had a smile that shone for days". Renee was very spiritual, she loved life and everyone she met.
We will all miss her beautiful smile and her helpful ways.
We love you Renee, you will never be forgotten. Thank you for touching so many of us.
--Diana Grow, her loving sister-in-law.

George Michael (Mike) Gallegos

Born in San Francisco, July 4, 1948. Passed away peacefully on January 13, 2003 with his family by his side.
Beloved son of Ado and Elsie Gallegos. Caring brother of Carmen and Phillip Gallegos. Mike was born and raised on Moultrie Street where his parents still reside. Mike attended Junipero Serra Elementary, and was a graduate of St. Peter's Grammar School, St. Ignatius College Preparatory and University of San Francisco. For more than 30 years he worked as a Recreation Director for both the S.F. Unified School District and the S.F. Recreation and Park Dept. organizing after-school activities, coaching numerous athletic teams and working with the City's senior citizens. He spent the last ten years at the South of Market Recreation Center. He loved to travel, was an avid runner and ardent fan of Bruce Springsteen. Relatives, many loyal friends and the children of the City's playgrounds whose lives he touched will miss him tremendously.

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Senior Services Page

Upcoming Family Education Events in 2003

The Senior Services Department has seen the need to offer educational opportunities to family members and caregivers. Family members play an essential part in assisting their parents through the aging process. In the year 2003 we will offer 2 educational events aimed specifically at meeting the needs of adult children and caregivers of seniors. In order to determine what would be the most useful and interesting topics for YOU, we would like YOUR suggestions as to what information YOU would find most helpful.

**Please specify which time frame and day would be the best suitable for you.
____4-6pm ____6-8pm Other_____
_____Weekday ___Weekend

**Please check off the topics you may want to participate in.

- ❑ Aging Issues and Healthy Aging
- ❑ Dementia/ Alzheimer's Disease
- ❑ Dealing with difficult behaviors
- ❑ Stress management (for the family member/ caregiver)
- ❑ Childcare and aging
- ❑ Levels of care (independent living vs. assisted living, vs. SNF etc)
- ❑ Osteoporosis
- ❑ Understanding HMO's, Medicare, Medi Cal
- ❑ Legal issues (estate planning, trust, and power of attorney)
- ❑ Senior Nutrition
- ❑ Depression

_____ (enter your own topic)

Please tear out and return your responses to: Julia Korsunsky, Senior Services Community Outreach Coordinator at BHNC, 515 Cortland Ave, SF, CA 94110 or by E mail: jkorsunsky@bhnc.org, or call (415) 206-2140 ext. 130.

" Memory Problem - a Challenge for the Family "

This FREE workshop is for Spanish-speaking family caregivers of someone with memory problems will take place on Saturday, March 29th, from 9:30 AM to 12PM at Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

** If interested, and to learn more please contact Louis Escobar at Family Caregiver Alliance at 415-434-3388 ext.319**

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The Arc San Francisco has been providing services and programs for people with developmental disabilities in San Francisco since 1951.

25 Years of Volunteer Service

Julia Riddell, 82 years old, completed her 25th year of Volunteer Service at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center this January. Born in New Medford, Massachusetts, she moved to Bernal Heights 50 years ago. She first came to the Center in 1978 at age 57, looking for something to do. She started volunteering for the Senior Program by setting and washing the tables for the lunch program. She then began signing-in all the seniors for the lunch program, a job she still does to this day.

She is the "Sunshine Lady", heading the one woman Sunshine Committee. She happily took out a book to show me over 50 pages of lists of birthdays, illnesses, loved ones passed away, and other events that she had cards sent out to our Seniors, signed by all their friends at the center. Her fondest memories in the center include movies and popcorn, Herbert's dance classes, and working at the store making dolls to sell when the store was called Thrifty's.

She keeps coming back "because I love talking to people, I love people." Her great contribution, along with those of many others, is what makes our center prosper. Thank you, Julia! ■

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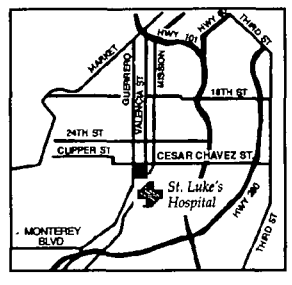

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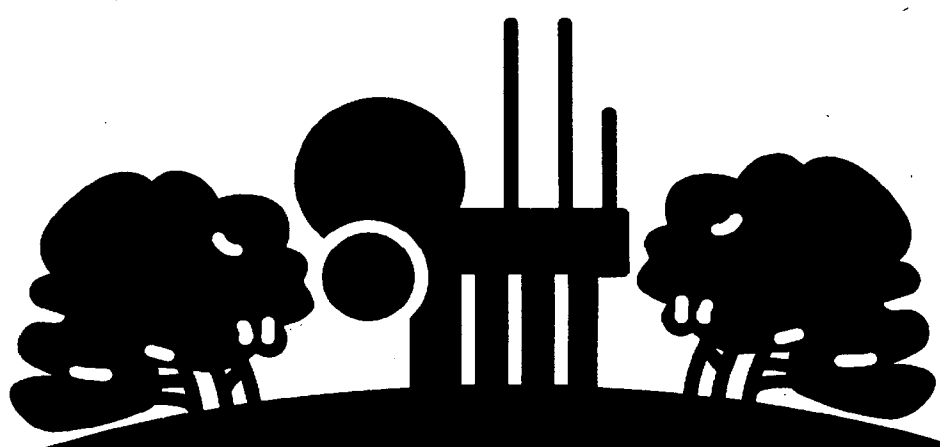

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